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Chairman: Mr. Kazhura ..... (Belarus)

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Agenda item 90: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 90: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*) (A/54/87; A/54/63-S/1999/171; A/C.4/54/L.2*)

1. **Mr. Duval** (Canada) said that, among the practical recommendations in the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, his delegation strongly supported those concerning changes to the Special Committee's working methods, especially those aimed at speeding up consideration of its reports by the Fourth Committee and the General Assembly. With regard to the recommendation that the Secretariat should finalize guidelines for peacekeepers on international humanitarian law, in consultation with the Special Committee, his delegation believed that the Secretariat must retain the right to decide on the most appropriate method of consultation and that Member States must be afforded sufficient time to reply.

2. His delegation had misgivings about both the content of the guidelines and the process. They still contained an unacceptable level of imprecision and ambiguity, which seriously limited its usefulness to peacekeepers. As for the process, his delegation regretted the inordinate haste with which the Secretariat had rushed to publish the guidelines in the form of a bulletin, thus sacrificing truth, accuracy and effectiveness in an attempt to score public relations "points" with the international media.

3. Peacekeeping operations in Kosovo and East Timor had underscored the serious lack of staff capacity within the Secretariat to plan, mount and deploy peacekeeping operations in a timely manner. His delegation reiterated the need for the Secretary-General to develop staff levels within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in terms of a "core" and "surge" capacity. To ensure that the Department had the necessary resources to carry out its functions, the Secretary-General should develop a nucleus of human resources and revisit several of the key concepts involved in United Nations rapid deployment capacity. His Government would continue to provide assistance wherever requested in the Secretariat's efforts to enhance that capacity.

4. With regard to the civilian police component of United Nations peacekeeping operations, his delegation supported the Special Committee's view on the need to strengthen the Civilian Police Unit, enhance the role of the Civilian Police Adviser and fill all authorized posts within the Unit. Planning for the police operations in the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and the United Nations Mission in East Timor, two of the most complex operations ever mounted, had stretched the Unit's resources to the limit. His delegation therefore considered that the Secretary-General should take urgent action to review the Unit's strength, fill all authorized posts promptly and develop an effective and reactive surge planning capacity.

5. **Mr. Al-Bader** (Kuwait) said that peacekeeping operations in various parts of the world were playing a more effective role than in the past, in that their activities had been expanded to incorporate humanitarian assistance, monitoring of human rights violations and institution-building. His delegation stressed, however, that some aspects of the operations should be reviewed. It was important to establish clear objectives and command structures, to ensure respect for Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations on budget contributions, to maintain constant consultations between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries, to strengthen the United Nations early warning and preventive diplomacy role and to consolidate its rapid deployment capacities.

6. Since 1991 the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission had been based in his country. The Mission played an important role in helping to reduce border tension and thus increase security and stability in the region. The repeated violations by Iraq of resolutions adopted by international bodies, however, constituted a source of tension and instability and raised doubts as to that country's intentions. Kuwait greatly valued the Mission's presence in the region and in November 1993 had decided to take on two thirds of its budget to ensure that its activities were not disrupted by financial problems. The Government also regularly fulfilled its financial obligations in respect of the budget for peacekeeping operations. In addition to financial resources, it provided the Mission with human and material resources for such activities as monitoring the maritime boundary and had set up a liaison office which was in constant contact with the Mission. His delegation endorsed the recommendations contained in the Special Committee's report (A/54/87).

7. **Mr. Osei** (Ghana) commended the work done by the Special Committee. His delegation nonetheless aligned itself with the proposals presented on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries by South Africa for further streamlining of the Special Committee's work to make it more effective.

8. Over the past few years, Africa had witnessed numerous civil wars which had set back efforts to move the continent out of economic decline. African countries had

amply demonstrated their willingness to resolve conflicts on their own continent, but for that it was necessary to enhance their peacekeeping capacity. That included strengthening the capacity of the Organization of African Unity. His delegation strongly believed that Africa should continue to play a central role in efforts to bring about peace and stability on the continent and, as the Secretary-General had said, show its determination to enhance its peacekeeping capacity. That was why the Organization of African Unity had put in place its Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution in which his country was actively involved. Non-African States would naturally continue to play a crucial role in the process and his delegation endorsed the Secretary-General's appeal for renewed commitment by Member States to supporting efforts to enhance Africa's contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security.

9. His delegation appreciated the role that was being played by the Department of Public Information in peacekeeping and security and reaffirmed the importance of informing the general population about peacekeeping activities taking place in their countries so as to broaden their understanding and acceptance of the peace process.

10. Ghana, which was the fourth largest troop-contributing country, was naturally concerned about the safety and security of peacekeepers and supported all the efforts which were being made by the Department to reduce the risks involved. His delegation recognized the important contribution of civilian police to the maintenance of peace and security in the post-conflict phase and therefore welcomed the efforts of the United Nations to enhance civilian police capacity in Africa through training programmes.

11. **Ms. Durrant** (Jamaica) said that her delegation supported the contents of the report of the Special Committee and endorsed the proposal to streamline the work of the Committee vis-à-vis the Special Committee. Her delegation subscribed to the statement made by the representative of Jordan on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

12. While some might wrongly believe that United Nations peacekeeping had outlived its usefulness, in reality peacekeeping operations had acquired new importance over the past year, which had been particularly tumultuous, and had evolved into multidimensional operations addressing complex situations which required a more dynamic approach. In order to meet those challenges, every effort should be made to enhance the capacity of the United Nations in rapid deployment and standby arrangements and to improve the recruitment of skilled personnel.

13. Jamaica shared the view of the Secretary-General that there should be an emphasis on preventive diplomacy, and that early warning was a condition for its effectiveness. In that respect, it was regrettable that the necessary political will was often lacking.

14. Her delegation stressed the need to strengthen the partnership between regional organizations and the United Nations in conflict resolution and post-conflict peace-building. It noted with satisfaction that coordination between the United Nations and regional organizations had been improved. In that respect, it stressed that the close coordination between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), OAU and the United Nations in the recent conflicts in Africa had yielded very positive results.

15. The recent killings of United Nations personnel in Kosovo and Burundi had signalled once again the importance of ensuring wider security for United Nations personnel involved in peacekeeping operations. The measures to be taken in that respect included measures to conduct investigations and prosecute the culprits. It must be ensured that the security measures that were adopted were also extended to other categories of personnel, such as relief personnel and the personnel of non-governmental organizations working in the field.

16. Given the complex challenges of peacekeeping, it was imperative that peacekeepers should be not only technically prepared, but also sensitized to the culture of the societies undergoing conflict situations. Her delegation therefore welcomed the efforts that were being made to implement the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit regarding the utilization of United Nations training facilities for peacekeeping operations.

17. With regard to strengthening African peacekeeping capacity, her delegation welcomed the efforts that were being made in that respect, but wished to stress the need for ongoing political support, the strengthening of training and the allocation of adequate logistical and financial support.

18. **Mr. Ramanna** (India) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. Peacekeeping was not an end in itself but a means to an end which must be seen as part of a broader international engagement. Peacekeeping operations could not be a substitute for the tasks of nation building and economic development. The underlying socio-

economic causes of conflicts, namely poverty, underdevelopment and inequality, must be addressed.

19. India was pleased that the Secretariat was enhancing African peacekeeping capacities. However, the United Nations should focus more on the needs of African countries instead of trying to subcontract peacekeeping to regional arrangements, whose purpose should be to reinforce rather than replace the role of the United Nations. Sufficient resources should be earmarked for peacekeeping operations, and there should be no variable standards in the international response to crises in Africa and in Europe.

20. India fully supported the recommendations in the report of the Special Committee. In particular, it welcomed the completion of a draft set of standard operating procedures for civilian police operations and the publication of the selection and training standards for civilian police. India encouraged the Secretariat to develop draft guidelines on general principles regarding the role of the civilian police as soon as possible. It was imperative for all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions so as to eliminate the delays in reimbursements to troop contributors.

21. His delegation noted that the Secretary-General had taken the initiative to issue a bulletin on the observance of international humanitarian law by United Nations peacekeepers. However, as proposed by the Special Committee, those guidelines should have been finalized only after holding consultations with the Committee.

22. In conclusion, he stressed that India's commitment to United Nations peacekeeping was an article of faith in a long tradition of action for peace. Over 50,000 Indian troops had participated with distinction in 30 peacekeeping missions throughout the world, and 90 of them had laid down their lives in the service of the United Nations.

23. **Mr. Shen Guofang** (China), referring to the importance of the role played by United Nations peacekeeping operations in resolving regional conflicts and easing tensions, said that the number of peacekeeping operations had greatly increased over the past year and their mandates were constantly expanding. The General Assembly must therefore once again carry out an overview of all issues relating to peacekeeping operations.

24. China had always maintained that peacekeeping operations should strictly abide by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the norms governing international relations, particularly the principles of respect for State sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs. While the international situation had undergone significant changes during the post-cold-war era, those principles remained valid; contravention of those principles would give rise to a risk of severe damage to international relations. Peacekeeping operations must also abide by the principles of fairness and neutrality, non-use of force except in cases of legitimate self-defence, and prior consent by the parties concerned. Peacekeeping operations faced new challenges, and new methods needed to be devised to meet those challenges, while respecting the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

25. His delegation shared the view of the Secretary-General concerning the international community's poor response to the needs of victims of war and natural disasters in Africa. It was disturbing that double standards were being applied increasingly in peacekeeping operations. The United Nations must not treat conflicts and suffering differently depending on the part of the world in which they were taking place. Peace and stability in one region could not be maintained at the expense of neglect of and indifference towards another region. Although conflicts in different parts of the world had different causes, the United Nations must treat them equally, without discrimination. Operations of an unprecedented scale had been deployed from Kosovo to East Timor; at the same time, however, the African continent was still in a quagmire of continuing conflicts that were inflicting untold sufferings on the local peoples. Those peoples should not be deprived of the attention and assistance of the international community simply because they were in Africa. It was time for the United Nations to honour its commitments and take meaningful action, because any hesitation would undermine its authority and tarnish its prestige, or even weaken its ability to maintain international peace and security.

26. Turning to the question of the financing of peacekeeping operations, he said that delays in the payment of contributions and non-payment of assessed contributions by a few countries had had a severe impact on various aspects of peacekeeping operations and had hampered a timely response by the Security Council. His delegation once again urged those countries which were behind in the payment of their contributions, especially the country with large arrears, to pay their dues on time, in full and without conditions.

27. In conclusion, he referred to the question of civilian police, who had an important role to play in peacekeeping operations. China was strengthening its training capacities in that respect and hoped that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations would formulate civilian police training standards as soon as possible and help developing

countries train their civilian police so that they could participate in a meaningful way in peacekeeping operations.

28. **Mr. Monagas** (Venezuela), referring to the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/54/1), said that, in view of the changes in the nature of conflicts over the past 10 years, the capacities of the Organization must be strengthened so that it could remove the obstacles to the smooth conduct of peacekeeping operations. It was now necessary to act on several fronts: deployment of civilian police forces, humanitarian assistance, disarmament and human rights monitoring. It was also imperative for the Organization to respect the principles affirmed by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries: consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force, except in cases of legitimate self-defence. While humanitarian assistance had become an essential component of peacekeeping operations, a clear distinction must be maintained between the two types of operation. United Nations operations should not be systematically conducted in the name of a right to interfere on humanitarian grounds. That concept needed to be considered in more detail, in another body.

29. The mandate of peacekeeping operations must be clearly defined, and they must be provided with assured means of financing. Member States, and in particular the members of the Security Council, must be collectively responsible for the financing of those operations. His Government supported the long-term priority objectives defined by the Secretariat, particularly in respect of the strengthening of peacekeeping capacities in Africa. It felt that all situations which constituted threats to peace should be treated with the same urgency. It welcomed the special links which the United Nations had established with regional and sub-regional organizations, particularly in Africa. It believed that early warning mechanisms should be further strengthened in order to resolve disputes before the outbreak of armed conflict, and that OAU should continue to be supported in that respect.

30. The United Nations was responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security; situations such as the situation which had arisen in Kosovo must be prevented from recurring without the Security Council being able to exert the authority entrusted to it by the Charter. While it was gratifying that the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel had entered into force, the security and protection of peacekeepers on the ground must also be enhanced. The Security Council and the Secretariat must consult troop-contributing countries when planning the deployment of new missions and the strengthening of existing missions, for the sake of greater transparency.

31. As indicated in paragraph 23 of the report of the Special Committee (A/54/87), Member States must be kept informed as to the criteria and methodology employed in the recruitment of replacements for gratis personnel, which must adhere to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Lastly, his delegation deplored the frequent delays in the reimbursement of countries which contributed troops and military *matériel*.

32. **Ms. Nuanthasing** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that her delegation associated itself with the statements made earlier by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of ASEAN and by the representative of Jordan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. Despite the difficulties encountered over the last five decades, the United Nations had not only been able to survive but to maintain its role in helping to resolve conflicts in many parts of the world. Lessons should be drawn from past successes and failures, and new approaches should be adopted, so as to safeguard the Organization's capacity for dealing with international conflicts. Peacekeeping operations should not be exploited as a means of serving the particular interests of some or a group of countries.

33. Although peacekeeping operations, when conducted in strict observance of the purposes and principles of the Charter, had a crucial part to play, they should remain a measure of last resort and not become a substitute for a permanent solution or for a political settlement of conflicts. Operations should be based on the following principles: respect for national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence. Their mandates and objectives should be clearly defined and their financing secure.

34. Like others, her delegation was concerned over the huge arrears in the payment of contributions by some Member States, especially the major contributor. As a result, there were delays in United Nations reimbursement of the States which contributed troops and equipment, the majority of them developing countries. Such delays caused a hardship to the countries concerned and adversely affected their capacity to contribute further to peacekeeping operations. All Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. Moreover, peacekeeping operations should not be funded at the expense of the development activities of the United Nations.

35. Regional organizations had, of course, an important role to play, but no enforcement action should be taken under

regional arrangements or by regional agencies without the authorization of the Security Council. Although it was urgent to address any humanitarian crisis, wherever it occurred in the world, any action undertaken in that connection should be independent of the political or military aims of some or a group of countries. Her delegation fully supported the position taken at the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, rejecting the so-called "right of humanitarian intervention", a concept that had no legal basis in the Charter or in the general principles of international law. The Lao People's Democratic Republic would spare no effort to contribute positively to the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, whose main objective was to help the United Nations in maintaining world peace and security.

36. **Mr. Ka** (Senegal) said that the world needed the soldiers and civilian police of the peacekeeping operations more than ever. He hailed the memory of the 2,000 soldiers fallen in the service of peace over the last 50 years. While recognizing that, as the Secretary-General had indicated in his report (A/53/63), peacekeeping remained a vital instrument and it was important to strengthen cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in order to consolidate African mechanisms to address conflict, his delegation believed that the efforts of regional organizations did not absolve the international community from its collective obligations set out in the Charter of the United Nations, which assigned to the Security Council the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security.

37. The preventive deployment of forces in situations where violence threatened to erupt at any moment should be encouraged, for that would make it possible to avoid crises or genocidal situations. The United Nations must continue to work to strengthen its peacekeeping capacity by coordinating the needs and resources of the standby arrangements of the United Nations, in the context of a partnership between the troop-contributing States, among them Senegal, and the States that were in a position to contribute equipment. His delegation supported the recommendations made in the report of the Special Committee. Peacekeeping operations should have clearly defined mandates, a well-established command structure and fully secure financing.

38. **Mr. Tudela** (Peru) said that peacekeeping operations no longer simply involved the deployment of United Nations military troops and/or police to prevent conflict and build peace more successfully, but had taken on multidimensional aspects. In any case, a distinction had to be made between peacekeeping operations and "humanitarian interventions".

39. The peacekeeping operations examined by the Special Committee were essentially those that respected the principles of consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force. It was no longer only a matter of creating a buffer between two parties in conflict, but also of promoting initiatives and building structures that enhanced peace and offered prospects for the future. While it was true that peacekeeping operations offered only temporary solutions and did not eliminate the root causes of conflicts, it was nevertheless undeniable that they helped to build peace, especially through law enforcement, the protection of fundamental rights, the organization of elections and the reinforcement of legal and policing skills. Such modest actions paved the way for the establishment of the rule of law and of transparent political processes that were respectful of human rights.

40. It was also necessary to provide peacekeeping operations with clear mandates, taking into account the specific circumstances of each conflict and ensuring that sufficient resources were obtained. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the contribution made by the civilian police of the United Nations.

41. Peru had taken an active part in peacekeeping operations and would like to do so again. It had, in fact, offered the United Nations the participation of Peruvian officers as observers in the preparations for the referendum in Western Sahara. It firmly believed in the Charter principals of respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States.

42. It would be well to recruit personnel for the peacekeeping operations on a broader basis so that their cultural diversity might facilitate relations with the population of the country concerned. In order to do so, clear selection criteria had to be laid down sufficiently in advance to allow an assessment of the needs of each mission, thus avoiding hasty repatriations that would affect the credibility of peacekeeping operations. The security and the protection of individual peacekeepers had to be guaranteed, and the acts of violence against them that had occurred in the field must be strongly condemned. Innovative solutions had to be found to improve peacekeeping operations by endowing them with a rapid deployment capability and the necessary resources for consolidating international peace and security.

43. **Mr. Agam** (Malaysia) said that his delegation associated itself with the statements made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Despite its limited resources, his country had participated with distinction in various United Nations peacekeeping operations since 1960.

and had also participated in other peacekeeping operations, in particular under North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) command.

44. His delegation believed that regional organizations had played and should play a role in peacekeeping operations. Regional efforts should not, however, supplant those of the United Nations or absolve the United Nations, specifically the Security Council, from fulfilling its leading role in the maintenance of international peace and security. Peacekeeping operations could no longer be viewed as isolated events and the multidisciplinary nature of peacekeeping had been duly recognized by the Security Council.

45. A major contributing factor in armed conflicts was the ease with which the warring parties could obtain small arms. In July 1999 his delegation had taken the initiative to convene an open debate in the Security Council on the issue of the disarming, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, in which many Member States had participated. He welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to develop general principles and practical guidelines in that area.

46. On the issue of funding for peacekeeping, he reiterated his delegation's concern over the slow rate of reimbursement. Unless the situation improved, the capacity and willingness of Member States, in particular developing countries, to participate in peacekeeping operations could be affected. The practice of borrowing from peacekeeping funds to finance regular budget activities would not improve the situation. Malaysia was owed over $20.5 million for peacekeeping operations but nevertheless continued to pay its dues on time, in full and without condition, in its unshakeable commitment to the Organization.

47. **Mr. Gagor** (Poland) said that his Government had presented its views regarding peacekeeping operations during the spring session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations but he wished to emphasize some important points. There was increasing demand for multifunctional peacekeeping operations in various regions of the world. In the preceding five months two new peacekeeping missions had been established and one was being expanded, multinational forces had twice received United Nations authorization to support peace efforts and preparations were under way for the possible deployment of blue helmets in three other peacekeeping operations.

48. The Security Council was more active in mandating peacekeeping activities, particularly in Africa. Ways must therefore be found to strengthen the Organization's capacity to better meet new challenges, specifically in taking measures to enhance rapid deployment capability. The time had perhaps come to make standby arrangements more operational and to make the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters fully functional within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). However, given the complexity of the conflicts and the range of tasks, the United Nations must act in close cooperation and coordination with regional arrangements and agencies yet maintain its primary role.

49. With the phasing out of gratis personnel to ensure equitable geographical representation, and the restructuring of the Secretariat, the time had come to conduct an overall assessment of the effects of currently available military expertise on the capacity of DPKO to plan, deploy and manage peacekeeping operations within the context of increasing demand.

50. With regard to the safety and security of United Nations personnel, he welcomed the initiative by DPKO to conduct a comprehensive review of the security requirements for peacekeeping operations, in which his delegation was ready to participate actively. New operations, operations to be expanded and future missions would result in an exceptional demand for personnel, especially civilian police, and resources. For some countries, including his own, the increase in unpaid reimbursements could adversely affect future participation in missions. His Government had paid its arrears fully and had met its financial obligations in full and on time. It also supported the proposed changes in the methodology of work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and would continue to support the noble cause of peacekeeping.

51. **Mr. Hemayetuddin** (Bangladesh) said that his delegation supported the establishment at the earliest opportunity of the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters, which would significantly reduce preparation time in the deployment of peacekeeping operations. Recruitment of military personnel should, however, take into account geographic distribution and the contribution by Member States to peacekeeping operations. His delegation was fully prepared to contribute military and civilian personnel to the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters.

52. With regard to financing, his delegation supported the proposal put forward by the Secretary-General concerning the support account. He welcomed the phasing out of gratis personnel and stressed that replacement personnel must be recruited in accordance with Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations. Procurement of goods and services must be transparent and the developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and the African countries, must be granted preferential treatment in that

regard. Geographic distribution must also be taken into account in appointing high-level civilian police officers. He stressed the importance of developing guidelines on the principles governing the role of civilian police personnel in peacekeeping operations.

53. Convinced that the financing of peacekeeping operations was the collective responsibility of all Member States, his delegation was concerned by the reluctance of some countries to pay their assessed contribution to the United Nations peacekeeping budget. Such delays in payments had had a negative effect on the Organization's ability to reimburse troop-contributing countries, particularly least developed countries such as Bangladesh. It was therefore imperative that all Member States, especially the developed ones, meet their commitments and pay their contributions in full, on time and without conditions. His country had been penalized in particular by delays in reimbursement for various missions, in particular the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) and he requested the Secretariat to advise his delegation as to when reimbursement for that Mission could be expected.

54. The importance of proper and effective training of troops and civilian police personnel did not need to be re-emphasized. In that connection his delegation reiterated its offer to host the peacekeeping training centre for the Asia-Pacific region. His country's firm commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and to peacekeeping activities was reflected in the number of civilian and military personnel which it had contributed to various peacekeeping missions around the world. It hoped to maintain that tradition and he was pleased to pay a heartfelt tribute to the women and men who had laid down their lives in the cause of peace.

55. **Mr. Perez-Otermin** (Uruguay), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Common Market of the Southern Cone (MERCOSUR) (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay), and also of Bolivia and Chile, said that those States had acceded to the agreements on standby forces and *matériel* which Paraguay had signed on 22 September 1999.

56. The changes in the nature of conflicts made it necessary to improve the capacities of peacekeeping operations, and the increasing number of attacks required a strengthening of the security of personnel. In that respect, it was important that countries which had not yet done so should ratify the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.

57. While the preventive deployment role of peacekeeping forces was still being analysed in the light of the experience of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP), it was clear that such deployment should be accompanied by preventive diplomacy efforts in order to prevent conflicts from breaking out or worsening. Since conflicts often had social and economic causes, it was important to create conditions enabling States to develop and thereby ensure the well-being of their populations. It must also be ensured that there was a better circulation of information in order to enable the various countries to take the necessary decisions in full knowledge of the facts, so as to deal with emergency situations on the ground. The United Nations activities to train civilian police commanders were commendable, since civilian police were playing an increasing role in peacekeeping operations, their functions must be clearly defined.

58. There was no doubt that military forces could contribute to post-conflict peace-building activities, but many countries could not provide troops without compromising their own security.

59. As the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had indicated, if the efficiency of operations was to be improved, it was necessary to cooperate more closely not only with regional bodies, but also with humanitarian assistance bodies and non-governmental organizations.

60. The MERCOSUR countries, which were already organizing simulation exercises and training courses, would definitely contribute to the strengthening of the capacities of peacekeeping forces in order to enable them to better fulfil their role.

61. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations should place more emphasis on the principles of equitable geographical representation and regional balance in the recruitment of personnel deployed in the field and at Headquarters.

62. The delegations on whose behalf he was speaking feared that delays in the reimbursement of developing countries would prevent them from participating more actively in peacekeeping operations. It was essential for all countries, particularly the members of the Security Council, to pay their dues on time and without conditions.

63. Those delegations paid tribute to the peacekeepers who had been killed in recent months, particularly in Kosovo and Burundi. Civilian populations were often targets for attacks and United Nations personnel was not spared, as the recent hostage taking in Georgia had demonstrated.

64. **Mr. Semakula Kiwanuka** (Uganda) said that the upsurge of conflicts required a multidimensional approach combining prevention and conflict management, from peacekeeping to peacemaking and peace-building, while developing early warning and, more importantly, early

action mechanisms for conflict prevention. The underlying causes of conflicts must be addressed — violations of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law and the absence of democracy — and it was necessary to promote development in order to combat poverty and inequality. Poor countries must be assisted in strengthening their economies, institutions and human resources. The trend towards a decline in official development assistance must be reversed.

65. There could be no sustainable peace without viable institutions. There was therefore a need to promote the establishment of transparent legal structures which were able to protect human rights and the rule of law and consolidate democracy.

66. The proliferation of small arms must be controlled, particularly in Africa. It was gratifying that the Security Council had considered that issue on 24 September 1999; however, it was important to ensure strict respect of the arms embargoes established by the Security Council in order to bring pressure to bear on the warring parties, and also to strengthen national legislative frameworks to stem the flow of small arms and light weapons. It was commendable that the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) had not only placed a moratorium on small arms and light weapons, but also ordered the destruction of weapons which had been decommissioned at the end of the civil war in Liberia.

67. The establishment of lasting peace required the deployment of not only military forces but also civilian police forces. Uganda was pleased to have been able to benefit from the training programmes which had been organized.

68. At the time of the Great Lakes crisis, the need to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations had been stressed, and it had been observed that, if Africa was to fulfil its responsibilities, the international community had to take action. It was in that spirit that the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and of OAU had appointed a joint Special Representative to the Great Lakes, Mr. Mohamed Sahnoun, and that the Arusha process had been established to handle the situation in Burundi. The ECOWAS Ceasefire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) had successfully intervened in Liberia and Sierra Leone, and the Southern African Development Community had participated in achieving a ceasefire in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

69. His delegation was gratified that the Security Council was considering the question of its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It believed that the United Nations should not use the pretext of the support it provided to regional bodies to excuse itself from the obligations it incurred under the Charter.

70. Peacekeeping operations could not be deployed unless the Security Council had the will to act and the necessary resources were available. While the support provided by the United Nations to Africa in various conflicts, such as those in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Somalia, was commendable, the slow pace of the Security Council when it came to taking decisions concerning Africa gave cause for concern. For example, the Security Council had not yet followed up on the request for assistance from the President of Zambia to enable the Joint Military Commission to begin its work after the signing of the ceasefire agreement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

71. Uganda was firmly committed to the implementation of the Lusaka peace agreement because it represented the first settlement plan supported by all the belligerents at the level of the sub-region. It had contributed $100,000 to enable the Joint Military Commission to begin its work. Tragedies had occurred which could have been prevented with the necessary political will. Moreover, it was less expensive to prevent conflicts than to deploy peacekeepers. The Security Council must be prepared to act in Africa as it had done in other parts of the world, particularly in Kosovo and East Timor. His delegation paid tribute to the staff members who had perished in Burundi and in Kosovo.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.